

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY09 Education Technology Programs <No news to report>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/>

Federal Title II.D Competitive Grants

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/>

See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions. Eight first-year and eight continuation grants have been awarded to support school-wide and/or district-wide eMINTS implementation models, designed to meet local educational needs.

State eMINTS/METS School Grants

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/METS%20School%20Grant%20Pgrm/index.html>.

See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions. Five (5) grants have been awarded to support school-wide eMINTS implementation models to improve teaching and learning, with focusing on mathematics and/or science instruction.

FY09 State Safe Schools Program <No news to report>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/index.html>.

See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions. Nine first-year and 31 continuation (five second-year, 26 third-year, and one fourth-year) grants have been awarded to support district and/or consortium alternative school programs designed to meet the educational needs of targeted students (those exhibiting violent, abusive, and chronically disruptive behaviors).

Technology Plans and Data Collection

Technology Plan State Approval

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/index.htm>

280 Districts will need to submit plans for state approval in spring 2009 – Update

As explained in the August *Newsline* article, 283 districts and charter LEAs received letters in August that explained they will need to have new technology plans approved by the Department next spring – and that the plans would be submitted via the Department's new electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS).

on evaluating online learning

- ISTE unveils new tech standards for teachers
- SETDA distributes student engagement toolkit
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Instructional Technology staff will host presentations on “Using ePeGS to create an effective education technology plan” at the conferences listed below. The Powerpoint slides for each session will be posted to the District Technology Planning website following the presentation. Also note that Instructional Technology is planning to podcast the MITC presentation for website posting.

- DESE Federal Programs Conference breakout session #207, Monday, September 8, 2008, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. This is a 90-minute general overview of the technology plan approval requirements and how to navigate the ePeGS system.
- MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference pre-conference session F00A, Sunday, October 5, 2008, from 1:15 to 4:15 PM. This is a three-hour session for attendees to learn about the technology plan approval requirements, writing effective objectives, strategies and actions steps, and how to navigate the ePeGS system. A wireless lab will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring laptops and copies of their [current or drafted] CSIP and ed-tech plans for review, technical assistance, and data entry. [Note that attendees must have ePeGS security permission to enter data. Download and complete [DESE Web Systems User ID Request Forms](#) on the ePeGs website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/epegs/>.]

Core Data Census of Technology

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>

Instructional Technology has completed analysis of the District-level form of the Census of Technology (COT) – see digest of the data collected via Screen 30 listed below. The expectation is to complete analysis of the Building-level data in early September and to have the state summary report posted by the end of September. Districts are reminded that COT data are used internally for planning and evaluation purposes and to report progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan to the Missouri General Assembly and the U.S. Department of Education.

Selected Data from Screen 30 – District-level Census of Technology (2008) ***N = 550 Districts and Charter LEAs***

Districts/LEAs having...

<i>Ed-tech Standards</i>	
463 / 84% locally-developed standards	521 / 95% for standards
250 / 46% adopted ISTE NETS	466 / 85% for administrators
60 / 11% adopted ITEA	473 / 86% for teachers
	411 / 75% for support services staff
<i>Technology Coordination</i>	
517 / 94% employ staff (Average = 2.2 FTE / Typical District/LEA = 1.0 FTE)	
214 / 39% contract work (Average = 287 hours / Typical District/LEA = 80 hours)	
4 / 0.7% none (neither employ nor contract technology staff)	
<i>Administrative Systems (top 10 list)</i>	
539 / 98% accounting/budgeting/payroll	476 / 87% food service
524 / 95% student attendance	468 / 85% discipline
522 / 95% communications/email	443 / 81% IEP management
502 / 91% library catalog	442 / 80% health service
489 / 89% grade book	442 / 80% course scheduling
<i>All attendance centers connected via LAN or WAN = 501 / 49%</i>	

<i>Technology integrated in core subjects</i> 538 / 98% communication arts 524 / 95% mathematics	531 / 97% science 516 / 94% social studies
<i>Email accounts</i> 534 / 97% for administrators 530 / 96% for teachers	509 / 93% for support services staff 148 / 27% for students 16 / 3% none
<i>8th-grade students technologically literate</i> Typical = 92% students	483 / 88% with 75% students or higher

Budget information for 2007-08

<i>Technology budget</i> Typical = \$55,000	Total = \$162,596,125 Average = \$295,093
<i>E-rate discounts</i> Typical = \$5,904	Total = \$26,166,277 Average = \$47,489

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Congress authorizes new research center on education technology

Congress recently authorized the new National Center for Research in Advanced Information and Digital Technologies as part of the latest reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, signed by President Bush on August 14. The center will be charged with helping develop innovative ways to use digital technology at schools and in universities. The center will be established under the U.S. Department of Education and managed as a nonprofit organization, overseen by a board of directors including educators, scientists, and business representatives.

FCC seeks comments on E-rate changes

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments on whether certain services should be designated as eligible for funding under the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism, known as the E-rate program. The Commission also seeks comment on whether to retain interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (interconnected VoIP) as an eligible service for future funding years. Comments are due on or before September 18, 2008, with reply comments due on or before October 3, 2008. To read the Notice for Proposed Rulemaking, filed August 19, see: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-19178.htm>.

Education and ed-tech associations launch campaign promoting technology in classrooms

Four leading education and education technology associations have launched a print and radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign, themed One Giant Leap for Kids, that asks the Presidential candidates to make K-12 student access to education technology and modern learning environments a top national priority. Developed by the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), the National Education Association (NEA), and the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), the PSA campaign is designed to drive home to the presumptive nominees that making investments in technology today is critical to ensuring the ability of U.S. students to compete and succeed in the 21st century global workforce. The overall PSA campaign also includes an online petition in support of making 21st century education a public policy priority, available at the EdTech Action Network website: <http://onegiantleapforkids.org/>. To read the August 27 MSNBC breaking news article, see: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26419943/>.

Middle school law-related civic ed project gets top rating at national showcase

Missouri's entry at the Project Citizen National Showcase received a "Superior" rating, the highest rating given. Students from Scott County Central, Scott City, won the right to represent Missouri at the national showcase at the Missouri State Showcase in March with their project, *Teen Smoking and the Missouri Cigarette Tax*. The winning team was coached by Mr. Jerry Brehmer.

The National Showcase is held in conjunction with the National Conference of State Legislators' annual meeting in New Orleans. Project Citizen is a civic education program for middle school students that actively engages students in learning how to monitor and influence public policy and encourages civic participation among students, their parents, and members of the community. As a class project, students work together to identify and study a public policy issue,

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS cont'd.

eventually developing an action plan for implementing their policy.

The Missouri Bar is the state coordinator for Project Citizen <http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=introduction>. For more information, contact Millie Aulbur at milliea@mobar.org.

E-RATE PROGRAM

Funding Year 2008. USAC will release FY2008 Wave 21 Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) September 2. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 90% and denials at 79% and below. As of August 29, FY2008 commitments total over \$1.14 billion.

Funding Year 2007. USAC will release FY2007 Wave 62 FCDLs September 3. This wave will include commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at 81% and above and denials at 80% and below. As of August 29, FY2007 commitments total just under \$2.46 billion.

On the day the FCDLs are mailed, you can check to see if you have a commitment by using USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES**ED releases guide on evaluating online learning**

The guide "Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success" is designed as a resource for leaders and evaluators of K-12 online learning programs, defined as a range of education programs and resources that includes distance learning courses offered by universities, private providers, or teachers at other schools; stand-alone "virtual schools" that provide students with a full array of online courses and services; and educational websites that offer teachers, parents, and students a range of resources. The guide features seven evaluations that represent variety in both the type of program or resource being evaluated, and in the type of evaluation. These evaluations were selected because they offer useful lessons to others who are planning to evaluate an online learning program or resource. See: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/evalonline/evalonline.pdf>

ISTE unveils new tech standards for teachers

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) unveiled new technology standards for teachers, June 30, at the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in San Antonio. ISTE's revised National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) for Teachers mark a significant overhaul of the group's original teacher technology standards, which ISTE introduced in 2000. Those first standards focused on what teachers should know about, and be able to do with, technology, while the new standards expand this focus to include what teachers should know and be able to do "to promote students' abilities to learn effectively and live productively in an increasingly digital world." At last year's NECC, ISTE unveiled new NETS for students, and the group kicked off an effort at this year's conference to revise its NETS for administrators, which will be released at NECC 2009. See: <http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NETS>

The "NETS for Teachers, Second Edition" includes five categories, each with its own set of performance indicators: (1) Facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity; (2) Design and develop digital-age learning experiences and assessments; (3) Model digital-age work and learning; (4) Promote and model digital citizenship and responsibility; and (5) Engage in professional growth and leadership. Under the category "facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity," for example, there are four performance indicators: (1) Promote, support, and model creative and innovative thinking; (2) Engage students in exploring real-world issues and solving authentic problems using digital tools and resources; (3) promote student reflection using collaborative tools; and (4) model collaborative knowledge construction by engaging in learning with students.

For every performance indicator within each category, ISTE has included a rubric that describes what meeting the standard would look like at four levels of proficiency: beginning, developing, proficient, and transformative. The "transformative" proficiency level is new to the revised standards and indicative of ISTE's more recently articulated focus on really transforming education through the use of technology, not just layering technology over traditional

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES, cont'd.

educational practices.

SETDA distributes student engagement toolkit

On June 30, 2008, SETDA released a free, online resource that helps teachers use technology to engage students more effectively in core subject areas like math, science, social studies, and reading. The tool entitled, "Teacher's and Technology's Role in Student Engagement" addresses the need for all teachers to use rigorous digital content and new teaching strategies to increase student engagement. See: <http://www.setda.org/web/toolkit2008/student-engagement>.

P21 and NCSS debut 21st Century Skills and Social Studies Map

The 21st Century Skills and Social Studies Map demonstrates how integration of 21st century skills into social studies can support teaching and prepare students to become effective and productive citizens in the 21st century. Suggested lesson plans allow teachers to easily integrate the map into their curriculum and provide their students with a well-rounded educational experience to assist in preparing them for the 21st century. The map also cites specific student outcomes and provides project models that will result in enhanced student achievement in grades four, eight, and twelve.

Developed by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the map details how to align teaching and learning to the demands of the 21st century by providing lesson examples that combine core skills like critical thinking, creativity and innovation with interdisciplinary themes (civic, economic and entrepreneurial literacy, and global awareness). To access the map, visit the home page of the P21 website at <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>. The map is also located on Route 21 – the Partnership's online, one-stop-shop for 21st century skills-related information, resources, and community tools.

EDC shares open source math curricula on Curriki

Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), a global nonprofit research organization known for its teaching tools and professional development, announced in July that it will team up with Curriki, an online community for creating and sharing open source K-12 curricula. To start, Curriki will make available EDC's standards-based middle-grades algebra course, allowing teachers to not only access the free curricula, but to add to it or adapt it for use in their classrooms. Immediately, educators will be able to use EDC's online mathematics course Building Algebraic Thinking in the Middle Grades on the Curriki site (www.curriki.org). The course, specifically designed to build the expertise of teachers at the middle level, focuses on the algebraic concepts of patterns and functions. It was designed and developed by mathematics and curriculum specialists at EDC and funded by the National Science Foundation as part of a research initiative to explore the comparative benefits of online professional development. To access EDC's open source math curricula, visit: <http://www.curriki.org>.

About Curriki – Curriki is a social entrepreneurship organization that supports the development and free distribution of open source educational materials to improve education worldwide. The online community gives teachers, students, and parents universal access to peer-reviewed K-12 curricula, and powerful online collaboration tools. Curriki is building the website to offer a complete, open course of instruction and assessment. Founded by Sun Microsystems in 2004, the organization now operates as an independent nonprofit.

System of learning supports: what superintendents say they need

In spring 2008, the Center for Mental Health in Schools solicited district superintendents across the country, asking them to indicate 1) resources that would help their districts enhance school improvement by developing a comprehensive system of learning supports that address barriers to learning and teaching, and 2) to provide recommendations to the Center as a technical assistance provider for the districts. About 80 superintendents responded. The report documents the results of the Center's inquiry, organized around the following articulated needs: 1) a vision and a roadmap, 2) resources for making the case and promoting readiness, 3) capacity building related to developing the new system, including personnel and other stakeholder development, 4) access to lesson learned, and 5) capacity building related to facilitating systemic changes. Designed as an initial foray to engage district superintendents in the conversation of addressing barriers to learning and teaching, the report also encloses a brief response form. See: <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/superintendentssay.pdf>

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES, cont'd.**Data-driven high school reform**

District and school administrators, teachers, staff developers, and public school advocates who want to expand their understanding of how to create school cultures that continuously use data to improve student learning and achievement are the target audience for this report from Education Alliance. The report uses the Breaking Ranks Model of High School Reform, a model developed by the Laboratory at Brown University (LAB) and piloted to five low-performing urban high schools as part of a more comprehensive systemic reform. Besides presenting a literature review on data-driven school improvement, the report provides illustrative examples of how the schools in the pilot program are using data to support systemic high school reform, and describes lesson learned, obstacles encountered and strategies utilized to promote data use for improvement. See:

http://www.alliance.brown.edu/pubs/hischlrfm/datdrv_hsrfrm.pdf

Best Evidence Encyclopedia

Recently launched by the Center for Data-Driven Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University, Best Evidence Encyclopedia or BEE presents a constantly expanding set of user-friendly reports and educator summaries on the best evidence available on education products currently in use. Following a similar rigorous research design criteria as the What Works Clearinghouse, the reports and summaries rate various interventions and programs on their evidence of effectiveness (strong evidence, moderate evidence, limited evidence, having no impact or no qualifying studies).

Currently available are reviews in the following areas in education reform:

- Mathematics (Elementary, Middle and High School, and Technology)
- Reading for English-Language Learners
- Secondary Reading
- Technology in Reading and Math
- Education Service Providers
- Comprehensive School Reform (Elementary and Secondary)

See: <http://www.bestevidence.org>

eMINTS UPDATE**Congratulations to Center School District**

The Center School District in Kansas City, MO was featured in the August publication of SMART Technologies' EdCompass Newsletter. District Educational Technology Specialist Colleen McLain and 4th grade teacher Ellen Pittman are quoted in the article "*Ready When the Bell Rings*" on preparations for the new school year and using SMART Board technology. To read the article, visit:

http://education.smarttech.com/common/education/pdf/Edcompass_August2008.pdf

COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS UPDATE

Registration for the ACT Prep course over videoconference and the PSAT Prep course over videoconference, offered through Cooperating School Districts and The Princeton Review, is now open. The deadline to register for either class is Monday, September 8, at the end of the day. For more information on these interactive distance learning classes, like practice test days, class dates, and fees, please visit *The Wired Classroom* at <http://csdtechpd.wordpress.com/> or contact Project Coordinator Rebecca Morrison at rmorrison@csd.org.

You can now get updates on the Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC) on Twitter! Visit

<http://www.twitter.com/metc2009>.

Cooperating School Districts has a new blog called *Education Today*: <http://www.educationtoday.wordpress.com>. *Education Today* covers timely education issues and information about CSD's programs and services.

Digital storytelling contest for Missouri students

Time to start production for the Show-Me a Movie Contest! This digital storytelling contest for Missouri students gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and digital moviemaking skills. Based on curriculum, and with a content focus, these 2-minute videos showcase what students know, care about, and are able to do. Winners will be showcased at the Midwest Education Conference in St. Louis on Jan. 26-28, 2009. For more information, application

COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS UPDATE cont'd.

form, and scoring guide, go to: <http://www2.csd.org/showmemovie/index.htm> NO FEE TO ENTER.

Prizes

Cash prizes will be awarded to the different divisions of each category (12 in all), and winners and their families and friends will be invited to a winners' reception on Jan. 27, 2009 at the METC at the St. Charles Convention Center.

Contest Deadline

- **December 15, 2008:** Entries must be received no later than 5 p.m. Entries received after this deadline will not be considered. Mailed entries must be addressed to:
Show-Me a Movie
Cooperating School Districts
1460 Craig Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63146
Emailed entries should be sent to: mbogart@csd.org

Divisions

- Elementary: Grades 3 – 5
- Middle: Grades 6 – 8
- High: Grades 9 – 12

Categories

- **Show Me Something New:** Make an instructional or how-to movie.
- **Show Me a Story:** Tell a story about someone special, your school, your community.
- **Show Me a Challenge:** Share local environmental concerns and social issues, which promote awareness and public action.
- **Show Me Your Community:** Recount an aspect of your community/ethnic culture that is unique, significant, promotes a message, and advances a better understanding of it.

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS UPDATE

MASL Fall Seminar will be held Saturday, October 25th, at Lewis and Clark Middle School in Jefferson City. Registration begins at 8:00 AM. Continental breakfast and lunch are included in the registration prices. Register early to get the best price.

Keynote speaker: Nancy Polette, author and Legacy Award winner for her book, *Gifted or Goof Off: Fact and Fiction of the Famous*. Nancy's keynote speech, **READING IS A FOUR WAY STRETCH!** will provide a fun look at four unique thinking processes that determine who we are. Find out why reading tastes vary along with titles to suit each thinking mode. Discover easy-to-use whole brain strategies that promote reading and learning in this session that proves reading is not a spectator sport!

Workshops on

- Collaboration
- Readers' Awards
- Department of Conservation educational resources for all grades
- And more – visit the website for a full listing <http://www.maslonline.org/calendar/fall/itinerary.php>
- PLUS! Two workshops offered by Nancy Polette:
 - **NON FICTION IN THE PRIMARY GRADES** Reluctant readers are more often "turned on" by exciting nonfiction than by fiction. Discover the tools that professional authors use to create exciting nonfiction. Show your students how to combine fact and fiction with nonfiction storytelling. Find simple reading and writing strategies that will bring the real world (past and present) too your students.
 - **LURING READERS WITH IMPROVISATION & READERS THEATRE** Elem/Middle School/High School Here are unique ways to share the joys of the reading experience. Improvisation is fun and mind-challenging! Learn simple techniques to use with any group of children for five or fifty-five minutes

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS UPDATE cont'd.

improvisation games that serve as springboards to success in reading, and several forms of readers theatre including those that can be done in a few minutes with no writing required.

Check the MASL website for registration and more information. <http://www.maslonline.org/calendar/fall/itinerary.php>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2008	Event
October 5 – 7	MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC) 2008 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences/mitc/
October 25	MASL Fall Seminar http://www.maslonline.org/calendar/fall/itinerary.php
2009	
January 26 – 28	Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC) 2009 St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, MO http://www2.csd.org/metc2009.htm

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date	Grant Program
Ongoing	UPS Foundation Education Grants http://www.community.ups.com/philanthropy/grant.html
Ongoing	Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowes/outdoor/index.html
Ongoing	Adopt a Classroom Grants http://www.adoptaclassroom.com/
Ongoing	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Education Grants Program http://www.hewlett.org/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving
Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	The Starbucks Foundation Arts & Literacy Grants http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp
Ongoing	NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.

Ongoing	RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/guidelines.php#programs
Ongoing	Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
Ongoing	NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
Ongoing	Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/grant.html
Ongoing	ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm
Ongoing	State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm
2008	
October 12	Best Buy Teach Award program https://bestbuyteach.scholarshipamerica.org/
November 14	Classroom-Based Research Grants for Grades K–12 Teachers http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1330
December 1	Pitsco/Hearlihy/FTE Grant: Excellence in Teaching Technology http://www.iteaconnect.org/Awards/granthearlihy.htm
2009	
January 1	Fourier Systems: Matching Grants for Science Tools http://www.nova1to1.com/science-grant/index.php

The following are just a few of the many sites that provide information on grant opportunities for K-12 education programs. Please check each listing for specific information on the type of program and the rules and guidelines for participation.

Grant listings

- For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from Technology and Learning** <http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.
- **Edutopia** has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/grant.php>.
- **Public Education Network** posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.
- **Grant writing and funding resources** are available at <http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.
- **The School Funding Center** is a subscription based database for federal, state and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter's SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL GRANTS, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country. [http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmmy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmmy)/index.aspx)
- Sign up for the free **GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap** for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.
- This online version of **eSchool News** monthly magazine contains a grants section with regularly updated grant, scholarship, professional development, and other funding opportunities for both educators and students. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding>
- An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.

corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research as well as an online librarian. <http://www.fdncenter.org>

- The **Grants.gov** site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies, and encompasses over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding over \$350 billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits, and other organizations. <http://grants.gov>
- **Grantsandfunding.com** Offers a complete listing of all Thompson Publishing Group publications that focus on grant and funding issues. Thompson Publishing Group publication subscribers have access to a special section that provides resources such as grant deadlines, highlights of funding issues, and links to related websites. <http://www.grantsandfunding.com>
- **SchoolGrants** is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. The site offers various fundraising ideas, sample proposals, grant writing tips, and scholarship information. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>
- **Electronic Learning**, a pull-out section of, but also distributed separately from Instructor Magazine, focuses on the use of technology in the classroom. The EL website will soon be expanded to include grant information. <http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor.htm>
- **MultiMedia Schools**, a print magazine published five times a year, addresses multiple technologies used in K-12 schools today. Selected full-text content is now available online. Includes a NewsWatch section, which posts technology-related funding news and links. <http://www.infotoday.com/MMSchools>

Foundations

- Corning Foundation http://www.corning.com/inside_corning/foundation.asp
- International Technology Education Association (ITEA) <http://www.iteaconnect.org>
- NEC Foundation of America <http://www.necfoundation.org>
- Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html
- Toyota USA Foundation http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/
- Mazda <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

Federal Grants

- National Science Foundation (NSF) <http://www.nsf.gov>
- U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

CONTESTS, AWARDS, AND FUNDRAISERS

October 15	The Magna Awards is a national recognition program co-sponsored by <i>American School Board Journal</i> , the National School Boards Association, and Sodexo School Services that honors school board best practices and innovative programs that advance student learning. http://www.asbj.com/MainMenuCategory/Supplements/MagnaAwards/WhatisMagna.aspx
October 28	International Reading Association: Teacher Recognition Award http://www.reading.org/association/awards/teachers_routman.html
December 31	EcoPhones Recycling Fundraiser http://www.ecophones.com/ProgramRules.aspx

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2008	EVENT
October 25	Articles for <i>Newsline</i> due

MARK YOUR CALENDAR cont'd.

April 15

Technology Plans due for re-approval due at DESE

Visit <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/districtstatus.htm> for local plan expiration dates. Visit <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/> for planning resources

FROM THE MAILBAG

The ABCs of Personal Finance: A St. Louis Fed Conference for Educators hosted by The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis along with The Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education, University of Missouri-St. Louis (314-516-5561), and The Office of Economic Education and Business Research, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (618-650-2583).

The event will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, One Federal Reserve Bank Plaza (Broadway and Locust St.) St. Louis, MO 63102. Sessions for Grades 9-12 are from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Oct. 28, 2008 and Grades 5-8 are from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2008.

Sessions will cover all the basics, whether teaching personal finance for the first time or for awhile. Participants get it all: content, materials and classroom activities!

Federal Reserve Bank economist Michael Owyang will offer three presentations:

- A Personal Finance Primer: The Time Value of Money | Risk and Return | Investment Horizons
- Understanding Assets: Stocks | Bonds | Portfolios
- Understanding Liabilities: Mortgages | Credit Cards | Payday Loans

SIUE and UMSL staff, as well as members of the St. Louis Fed's Teacher Advisory Board, will demonstrate hands-on lessons and activities for teaching personal finance. The Fed will provide CDs, print publications, a bibliography and more for classroom use.

Attire is business casual. All teachers are welcome, but classroom applications are geared to grades 5-12. Continental breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. and lunch is provided. The program will adjourn at 3 p.m. Register online at <http://www.stlouisfed.org/events/2008Oct28-30StLouis/default.cfm>. To learn more, contact Mary Suiter at 314-444-4662 or 1-800-333-0810, ext. 44-4662.

From Teachers First <http://www.teachersfirst.com/feature.cfm> the web resource by teachers, for teachers.

Check out this week's featured sites, listed below. Sites include tools and ideas for many subjects:

- a marvelous butterfly site for elementary to high school
- classics and poetry in audio form (with text versions, too!)
- a thorough, student-friendly look at careers
- challenges to solve tough world problems
- a collaborative booktalk site to join with classes worldwide
- interactive earthquake simulations
- a primary grade movement and dance activity

A Videogame That Makes Planetary Geology Intuitive? Absolutely! Teachers and students have the opportunity to discover the fundamental geological processes of the Solar System using NASA eEducation's casual game Selene: A Lunar Construction Game. Players construct the earth's moon and then pepper it with impact craters and flood it with lava flows. Planetary scientist and lunar expert, Dr. Charles A. Wood, leads students in this moon adventure. Participating educators and their students will join the NASA-sponsored Classroom of the Future (COTF) researchers studying learning and assessment in game-based environments.

Youth, adults, and researchers can all participate in NASA's initiative studying learning and assessment in videogames and virtual worlds. Read what educators are saying about Selene:

<http://selene.cet.edu/testimonials.htm>. Students access the Selene game online, anywhere, 24/7. Research is on-going, and COTF seeks research participants (youth aged 13-18), adult recruiters, and research collaborators. Computer requirements: High speed Internet connection, sound, Flash 9+, Java 1.4+ (can be downloaded for free). Learn more at <http://www.cet.edu/?cat=selene> and <http://selene.cet.edu>. NASA Consultant Pat Dougherty from the

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

Heart of Missouri RPDC is available to assist teachers in central Missouri in person or by email. Pat can be reached at daugherty@missouri.edu.

Oracle Kicks Off 'ThinkQuest Website Competition 2009' The Oracle Education Foundation <http://www.oraclefoundation.org/> has launched the "ThinkQuest Website Competition 2009," <http://www.thinkquest.org/competition/> a program that calls on teams of students and teachers to develop educational websites while demonstrating 21st century skills.

This year's ThinkQuest competition challenges students and coaches to develop an educational website on any topic. According to ThinkQuest guidelines, "Website entries may utilize a variety of technologies and take a variety of creative forms." The contest is open to students aged 9 to 19 from anywhere in the world. Teams must be coached by a teacher or school employee. Entries will be judged by a team of educators, and winners will receive a range of prizes that include laptops, digital cameras, and school grants, among other prizes.

"The ThinkQuest Website Competition provides young people with an outstanding opportunity to exercise 21st century skills and showcase their work globally," said Annette Harris, coach of a winning team in last year's competition, in a prepared statement released by Oracle. "It is very exciting to see students shift from being consumers of information to becoming producers of information. Their application of cutting edge technology, creativity and determination is inspirational."

The deadline for submissions for the 2009 competition is April 2. Further information about the 2009 ThinkQuest competition, including enrollment and prize details, can be found at <http://www.thinkquest.org/competition/>.

By: Dave Nagel, "Oracle Kicks Off 'ThinkQuest Website Competition 2009'," T.H.E. Journal, 8/28/2008, <http://www.thejournal.com/articles/23166>.

The Summer 2008 Olympics are over, but these resources may provide useful references for classroom projects or discussions.

- **2008 Olympics Teaching Packet:** http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_1283.pdf From the official committee for the Beijing Olympics 2008 and their related website, find a teaching kit here for two age groups: grades 3-6 and grades 6-10. The focus is on Chinese culture, especially through the lens of the Olympics. Traditional Chinese motifs are examined, along with mascots, medals, economic and environmental impacts, and both historical and modern Beijing.
- **Olympic Symbols Fact Sheets:** http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_1303.pdf What are the origins of the traditional Olympic symbols, such as the five rings or the flame? Students will examine both the history and values behind the symbols, and then design their own mottos and emblems.

From PBS Learning.Now Blog <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/learning.now/>

A Blueprint for 21st Century Engagement by Andy Carvin, "This week, *PBS Teachers* rolled out its curricular guide for the 2008 election. It offers teachers a range of online tools created by the public broadcasting community to encourage civic engagement, embracing social media with each lesson plan.

Access, Analyze, Act: A Blueprint for 21st Century Engagement <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/vote2008/> is the educational culmination of a project a number of us in public radio and television began more than a year ago, pulling together our collective digital resources to create a suite of online services related to the election. A group of organizations, including PBS, NPR and other public media entities, each committed to creating election tools and making them available to each other. While this may not seem like a big deal, it's unusual for public broadcasters to collaborate editorially on this kind of scale. Meanwhile, many of these tools embraced social media as well, which for many of our organizations was relatively uncharted waters.

The online version of the curricular guide is broken down into three main sections, each containing a video overview hosted by edtech guru Joyce Valenza, along with downloadable lesson plans. The first section, *Access*, begins with a lesson in which students create their own blogs, which they can use to articulate their political views, critique the campaign, and journal their experiences as they complete each lesson. Students then go on to explore what politicians do at the local and national level, culminating with an online quiz used to generate further

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

classroom discussion.

As is the case with each lesson plan, the ACT lesson plan includes information on how it relates to a number of education standards, including the ISTE National Education Technology Standards (NETS), McREL's language arts standards and the NCSS social studies standards.

In the second section, *Analyze*, students examine the role that the media plays in the political process, as well as rhetorical techniques used by politicians to persuade the public. Student teams get to visit campaign websites and dissect their rhetorical strategy to entice prospective voters. The lesson concludes with students experimenting with several interactive tools. *KQED's You Decide* <http://www.kqed.org/w/youdecide/> tool, for example, serves as a virtual devil's advocate, asking users to state their position on a particular issue, then forcing them to explore the opposite perspective. Students then get to organize a classroom debate, utilizing information gleaned from *American Public Media's Engage 08* <http://americanpublicmedia.publicradio.org/engage08/> site, including their Select A Candidate tool, which students can use to see which candidates match their own political beliefs.

The final set of lesson plans, *Act*, embrace social media tools to get students involved directly in the political process. It begins with students learning more about social media, the role it's playing in the election and how it's helping re-engage young people in the political process. From there, students learn how to ask probing questions to politicians by participating in *Capitol News Connection's Ask Your Lawmaker* <http://www.askyourlawmaker.org/> project, which invites the public to submit questions and vote on the best ones. CNC's journalists then bring the questions directly to politicians and post their answers on their website for discussion. Students can even display a widget of the most popular questions on their blogs:

Next, students create videos or audio recordings in which they articulate their core political beliefs. These recordings can then be posted on NPR's *Get My Vote* <http://www.npr.org/getmyvote/> site - which I'm proud to say is something I worked on for much of the last year. Get My Vote includes hundreds of personal commentaries from people talking about their own political litmus tests. Along with having students create their own commentaries, the lesson plans has them dissect and debate a commentary from a Virginia college student who articulates a vision for smaller government:

In the final lesson plan, students make another video - this time, an advocacy video that attempts to persuade viewers on a particular policy issue. They prepare by examining online libraries of advocacy videos, then apply the rhetorical techniques they've developed in previous lesson plans. The videos get posted to a student-friendly video site like *Youth Media Exchange* <http://www.ymex.org/> to continue the discussion online.

Having known since last year that these curricular materials were in development, I'm very excited they're now online and ready for use, just in time for the new school year. Please let me know what you think - we'd love to get your feedback. And if you use any of the lessons this fall, please share links with us so we can see what your students developed." —Andy

The Healthy Schools Campaign Starting in 2006, school districts across the U.S. have been adopting wellness policies, and many now have wellness committees in place that are bringing attention to school health issues. As children head back to school, what can schools and families do to make sure they have access to the nutritious food and physical activity that can help them stay healthy and ready to learn?

The Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) has developed *The Quick & Easy Guide to School Wellness*, a multi-media guide full of information and resources on food and fitness in schools. The guide is filled with comprehensive information, practical advice, tools and resources to help individuals take action. With the guide, you can learn more about wellness issues and how to create change at school. To order a copy or access the guide online, visit <http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/wellness/>.

The National Science Digital Library (NSDL) will be offering FREE teacher professional development webinars every month during the school year as part of the National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA) series. These 90-minute interactive webinars are designed to build content knowledge and awareness of digital resources in all disciplines of Science. For archives and schedule information, visit

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

http://nsdl.org/resources_for/k12_teachers/?pager=professional_development.

The following NSTA Web Seminar topics are in development and will take place fall 2008.

- Teach Science Concepts and Inquiry with Food, presented by the FDA
- Discover the Universe - From Galileo to Today, presented by NASA
- Celebrating Astronomy: A Star's Story, presented by NSDL
- Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears: Physical Science From the Poles, presented by NSDL
- Energy and the Polar Environment, presented by NSDL
- How to Maximize Your NSTA Conference Experience, presented by NSTA
- The NSTA Learning Center, presented by NSTA
- Force and Motion: Stop Faking It!, presented by NSTA Press
- Picture-Perfect Science Lessons: Using Children's Books to Guide Inquiry, Grades K-4, by NSTA Press
- Igniting Students' Interests in Science Careers, presented by Sally Ride Science

These archived web seminars are available at http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/web_seminar_archive.aspx

- FDA: Teach Science Concepts and Inquiry with Food and Cosmetics
- IPY: Polar Science, Global Discoveries: IPY Research Update for Teachers
- NASA: 21st Century Explorer – Today's Knowledge for Tomorrow's Explorer
- NASA: Mapping the Moon: Simulating LOLA in the Classroom
- NASA JPL: Mars Exploration Rovers: Where Are They Now?
- NOAA: Coral Ecosystems
- NSDL: Enlightening Experiences with Energy
- SRS: From Astrobiology to Zoology: Igniting Students' Interests in Science Careers

Hewlett Packard has developed the Teacher Exchange Experience

<http://h30411.www3.hp.com/index.jsp> to provide teachers ways to better integrate technology into their classrooms and get more from the technology they have. Explore its rich selection of free resources, tools and community features designed to support and inspire, and connect with other teachers who are going through the same planning stages. Some of the features of the Teacher Exchange Experience are:

- **Spotlight on community** As they plan for the year ahead, the Teacher Exchange Experience community forums are a great place to connect, inquire, support and share. Message boards and shared resource files are examples of the kinds of ideas and materials found there.
- **Featured tech tool:** use Tafari <http://h30411.www3.hp.com/campus/p/campusId/1111#tools> for visual, multi-media searches Tafari is a new kind of search engine that lets you compile and share results from multiple search queries in a visual, accessible way. With Tafari, users can:
 - Conduct research across a wide range of media types: images, articles, blogs and more.
 - Store and stack search results with a drag-and-drop feature called "the shelf."
 - Use the "tree view" for a visual representation of a search path and results.
 - Designed specifically for educational research, Tafari is one of six free, helpful education solutions found on the Teacher Tools page.
- **Site feature of the month:** User Profiles community forums participants can tweak their profiles to include custom nicknames, bios, and photos or graphics.

Media Literacy Symposium, Call for Papers Gateway Media Literacy Partners, Inc. (GMLP) will hold a **Media Literacy Symposium**, 9AM-1PM, Saturday, Oct. 18, at Webster University, as part of the group's second annual Media Literacy Week, Oct. 12-19. A strand of presentations will focus on media literacy pedagogy, designed to help formal and informal educators put their hands around media literacy, identify methods to analyze media and media presentations, and demonstrate curriculum integration methods.

Teachers, graduate, and undergraduate students from Missouri and Illinois area schools are invited to present papers (with accompanying media). The submissions deadline is September 15, 2008. Information and submission forms are posted on The Symposium's website, <http://www.gatewaymedialiteracypartners.org/GatewayMediaLiteracyPartners/MLW08.html>. For more information about GMLP's symposium and Media Literacy Week, please visit the GMLP website at

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

www.gatewaymedialiteracypartners.org.

From T.H.E. Journal

"Nano Science Gets K-12 Boost," T.H.E. Journal, 8/21/2008, <http://www.thejournal.com/articles/23132> by Dian Schaffhauser

A new program to introduce K-12 students to nano science has been launched by artists and scientists from NanoArt21.org <http://www.nanoart21.org/> and The Nanotechnology Group. <http://www.tntg.org/>. Seeing a lack of coverage of nano science in K-12 curriculum, NanoArt K12 was introduced to stimulate education activities about nanoscale art, science, and technology. Nano means "dwarf," and a nanometer is one-billionth of a meter.

NanoArt is a new discipline that combines art with science to create paintings and sculptures at molecular and atomic levels. Scientists use chemical or physical processes to explore the surfaces, composition, and interaction of elements at the nanoscale, which can now be viewed and manipulated with research tools such as scanning electron (SEM) scanning tunneling (STM) and atomic force microscopes (AFM). These scientific images are then captured and further processed, using different digital techniques. Since these tools are too expensive for primary grade classrooms the program provides weblinks to sites that the children, parents, and teachers can explore.

"This unique introduction to the K-12 students showcasing the beauty of nature at this tiny scale of science is designed to stimulate their imagination and curiosity strengthening the desire to learn more science, technology, and engineering (STEM) courses as they move through the primary grades and enter high school," the two organizations said in a statement.

The program offers a NanoArt K12 online exhibition in which compositions are grouped online by age/grade level for the viewers. The program has posted a PDF file online with potential modules for curriculum at <http://www.nanoart21.org/>.

"PBwiki Offers \$25 Million in Web 2.0 Tools for Educators," T.H.E. Journal, 8/20/2008, <http://www.thejournal.com/articles/23133> by Dave Nagel

Collaborative technology developer PBwiki <http://pbwiki.com/> has launched two new grant programs for education offering free upgrades to the company's hosted wiki service and other awards.

The first of the programs, called the *Back To School Challenge* <http://www.backtoschoolchallenge.com/>, will allow up to 100,000 teachers and librarians to earn a gold-level PBwiki account for free. (Gold upgrades normally run \$250.) They can do this by "...using, blogging about, and referring others to PBwiki." Other prizes in this program include a \$1,000 gift certificate for purchasing school supplies; autographed books; Lego educational products; and games. Prizes are awarded based on a point system. A complete list of prizes and point totals can be found at <http://pbwiki.com/content/btsc-sponsors>.

The second program, called the Partner Program for Education, <http://pbwiki.com/content/edupartners> allows districts and associations to offer PBwiki gold accounts to members for free.

"With schools and libraries feeling the pinch of the slowing economy, PBwiki wants to make sure educators can still afford the tools they need to make 2008-2009 the year of collaborative learning," said PBwiki CEO Jim Groff in a statement released this week. "Giving away 100,000 premium wikis lets us help out and spread wiki-based collaboration to an even wider audience."

Both programs are open now and run through Oct. 31. Further information can be found at <http://pbwiki.com/>.

Created in 1947, the **Voice of Democracy (VOD) scholarship program** is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12 that annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. The first-place winner, who competes with all the first-place VFW Department winners, receives a \$30,000 scholarship that is paid directly to the recipient's American university, college, or vocational/technical school.

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

Besides competing for the top scholarship prize, as well as other national scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000, each Department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Target.

The VOD program is endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria and is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute essay based on an annual theme.

How to Enter: Students can enter by submitting the required entry form, along with their essay and recording to a local VFW Post. To find a post in the area, visit <http://emem.vfw.org/findpost.aspx>, look in the white pages of the local phone directory, or call the VFW National Programs office during normal business hours at 816-968-1117. Mail entry form and audio essay to the local VFW post. Further directions are listed on the entry form. For more information and the entry form, go to: <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtly.level&did=150>.

Control A Superstorm <http://dsc.discovery.com/convergence/superstorm/interactive/interactive.html>

This interactive game on Discovery.com allows users to use computer models, based on current scientific research as well as imagined technology, to try to minimize the impact of a hurricane.

Think MTV: Education <http://www.think.mtv.com/Issues/education/>

Now that students are back in the classroom, why not encourage them to be an active voice at their school? This MTV website features videos from students making a difference at their schools, discussion forums, ideas and tips for activism, and more.

Kids Creating Community Content (KC3) Contest <http://kc3.cilc.org/> From Seattle to Singapore, Beijing to Berlin, those looking for ways to engage middle and high school students in authentic research, presentation skills and use of technology will want to be involved in the **2008-2009 Kids Creating Community Content (KC3) Contest**.

This standards-based project taps into the creative nature of students as they look at their community and explore ways to share their unique area with students around the world over videoconference. For complete details and project requirements visit: <http://kc3.cilc.org>. For more information, contact: Bev Mattocks, bmattocks@cilc.org, 765-435-2360 office.

Family media strategies from the PTA: I'm Your Parent and I Approve this Message

Political conventions, debates, and campaign advertising are filling a big part of the TV schedule, newspaper, and web pages. These are the ways candidates and parties define themselves and their opponents. As you and your students see electioneering -- whether a bumper sticker, advertisement, or debate -- ask what image is being conveyed. What's the message a candidate is trying to send? Watch for colors, symbols, music, lighting, camera angles, leading words and phrases, and testimonials. Which of these are being used and to what effect? Your student may be surprised to realize how much, or how little, of an election campaign has to do with ideas and policy versus selling an image. For more information on how families and classrooms can be media smart, visit PTA's TV and Video Game Safety http://www.pta.org/topic_TV_and_video_game_safety.asp or Cable in the Classroom's Media Smart for Parents <http://www.ciconline.org/mediasmartparents>.

NEWEST eTHEMES

Literature: "Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie 'Peanut' Johnson" by Michelle Y. Green These sites are about the first black female pitcher - Mamie "Peanut" Johnson. Read her biography, history of Negro Baseball Leagues, and women in baseball. Includes a lesson plan, photographs and audio. There are links to eThemes Resources on African American first, Negro League, and Black History Month. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002329.shtml>

Literature: "The Golden Goblet" by Eloise Jarvis McGraws These sites are about the book "The Golden Goblet" by Eloise Jarvis McGraws. There are study guides, teacher guides, lesson plans, discussion questions, book reviews, WebQuests, and suggested activities. Includes information on Ancient Egypt. There are also links to eThemes

NEWEST eTHEMES cont'd.

Resources on Egypt: Ancient Culture, Pyramids, and Egypt: Modern Culture and Lifestyle.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002360.shtml>

Missouri Regions: Lee's Summit These sites are about the city of Lee's Summit named for Robert E. Lee during the Civil War. There is the history of Lee's Summit as well as information about its business history and current economy. Includes related information about Lee's Summit, Longview, and Campbell Middle school. Also included is eThemes Resources on the Civil War Causes and Battles. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002356.shtml>

Native Americans: Woodland & Plains Indians These websites are about the Native American tribes of the Eastern Woodland and Great Plains regions. Here you can find pictures, stories, craft ideas, and activities. Find out where they lived, what their houses looked like, and what they ate. There is information about lifestyle, culture, art, and more. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002347.shtml>

Plants: Herb Gardening These sites focus on herb gardening. There are gardening tips and planting activities for kids. Includes hands-on experiments, lesson plans, classroom projects, pictures, and a garden simulation. There are also links to eThemes Resources on the History of Spices, Gardening, and Landscape Design. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002358.shtml>

Special Education: Handwriting Skills for Students with Autism These websites contain information about how to help Autistic students having difficulties with handwriting skills. Includes interventions to facilitate handwriting skills as well as some practice exercises to improve handwriting skills. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002359.shtml>

Unsolved Mysteries for Upper Grades These sites provide information, facts, theories, and speculations on mysteries or phenomena. The topics include Amelia Earhart, Atlantis, the Bermuda Triangle, Bigfoot, crop circles, Easter Island, Jack the Ripper, Loch Ness, the Mary Celeste, Nazca Lines, Roswell, Stonehenge, Chupacabra, Da Vinci's Code, exorcism, and more. Included are videos, photos, and factsheets. There are links to eThemes Resources on History's Mysteries, Egyptian Pyramids, and Amelia Earhart. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002361.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Animals: Barn Owls These sites have information about barn owls, owl pellets, and the children's book "There's an Owl in the Shower." Includes photographs, video, and audio files. There are links to eThemes Resources on spotted owls, food chains, and raptors. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000425.shtml>

Animals: Grizzly Bears These sites are about the grizzly bear, which is a subspecies of brown bears. Learn about the bear's habitat, characteristics, diet, reproduction, and more. Includes an online quiz, a game, photographs, and video clips. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000929.shtml>

Animals: Jungle Animals These sites provide information on the environment, habitat, characteristics, geography, and types of animals found in the jungle. There are links to eThemes Resources on rainforests and forests habitats. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001626.shtml>

Animals: Penguins Learn about the lives of penguins including their habitat, their adaptation to the environment, and their amazing ability to swim. See a live view of penguins from a Webcam and watch videos of penguins swimming and walking. These sites have factual information, photographs, and suggested classroom activities. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000128.shtml>

Animals: Polar Bears These sites include many facts about polar bears, including their diet, behavior, and habitat. Watch short movies about polar bears, listen to audio files of their ferocious roars, and see live footage of polar bears in a zoo. Includes some suggested classroom activities relating to polar bears and lesson plans. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000568.shtml>

Animals: Wolves: Habitat and Stories These sites are about wolves: their past and current habitats. Learn about

UPDATED eTHEMES cont'd.

wolves' families and individual behavior. Find out why wolves are often portrayed as negative characters in the literature. Read myths, fables, legends, and stories about wolves. Includes audio, video, interactive sites, and an online multiplayer game. There are links to eThemes resource on wolves and the True Story of the Three Little Pigs. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000340.shtml>

Author Study: Chris Van Allsburg This is a collection of sites about author and illustrator Chris Van Allsburg. Includes biographical information and suggested classroom activities to go along with his books: "The Polar Express," "Jumanji," "The Garden of Abdul Gazisi," "The Mysteries of Harris Burdick," and "The Z was Zapped." <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000535.shtml>

Country: China Learn about China's geography, language, culture, food, and history. Take a virtual tour of the Great Wall or view numerous photographs of Chinese people and places. Try writing Chinese characters or listen to audio files of Chinese word pronunciations. Includes many craft and classroom activities, plus interactive quizzes. There are sites for students of all ages. Includes eThemes Resources on ancient civilizations of China and panda bears. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000064.shtml>

Explorers: French Explorers and Settlers Around the Mississippi These sites have biographies of French explorers and traders, plus information about French settlements in Missouri and other states along the Mississippi River. Includes locations of the first French settlements and descriptions of some arts and crafts. Also includes an interactive story and a video about the history of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000220.shtml>

Genetics: Blood Types Learn about the different blood types, how they were discovered, and what they mean. Learn about inheritance and changes in blood types. Find out why it is important to know your blood type and Rh factor. Includes quizzes, lesson plans, games, and movies. There are links to eThemes Resources on basics of genetics, genes, DNA, and inherited blood diseases. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001487.shtml>

Genetics: Genes and DNA Learn about deoxyribonucleic acid commonly known as DNA. Discover the importance of the DNA strand, chromosomes, and genes. Read about people who worked on discoveries in the past and what scientists are able to achieve today. Find out how many of the same chromosomes people share with each other and the rest of living creatures. Learn about the Human Genome Project. Includes online quizzes, interactive tours, 3D animations, and video clips. There are links to eThemes Resources on genetics and Punnett squares. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001485.shtml>

Genetics: Heredity These sites are about the genetics of heredity. Learn what heredity and inheritance are as well as why children are like their parents and sometimes they are not. Includes games, online tests, and animations. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Genetics: Basics, Punnett Squares, Genes and DNA, and Inherited Blood Diseases. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002354.shtml>

Holiday: Lunar New Year These sites are about the Asian celebration of the Lunar New Year, called Chinese New Year in China. Topics include history of the holiday, celebrations, food, crafts, and more. There are photographs, video clips, and quizzes. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000612.shtml>

Iditarod Learn more about the Iditarod Dog Sled race in Alaska. Read about the history, teams, dogs, and much more. Some sites offer ideas for classroom activities. Includes a link to eThemes Resources on Alaska. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000042.shtml>

Literature: "A Taste of Blackberries" by Doris Buchanan Smith These are supplementary resources to be used with the book "A Taste of Blackberries" by Doris Buchanan Smith. Includes related information on friendship and bee stings. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000439.shtml>

Literature: "Dear America: Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie" by Kristiana Gregory These sites are about the book "Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie" and corresponding classroom activities. Includes eThemes relating to the author and the book's themes of pioneers, the Oregon Trail, and covered wagons. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000563.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES cont'd.

Literature: "Frindle" by Andrew Clements These sites have activities relating to the book "Frindle." There are biographies and interviews with author Andrew Clements. Other topics include the history of the pen, writing instruments, the dictionary, and the dictionary editorial process. Try the interactive word games, the online dictionary, and language tools. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000423.shtml>

Literature: "Holes" by Louis Sachar Find information about the book, suggested classroom activities, discussion questions, and online quizzes. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on author Louis Sachar. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000542.shtml>

Literature: "Mr. Popper's Penguins" by Richard and Florence Atwater These sites have suggested activities, lesson plans, and discussion questions for the book "Mr. Popper's Penguins." The theme includes sites about penguins, quizzes, coloring pages, and a webcam. Includes links to eThemes Resources on penguins and Antarctica. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000566.shtml>

Literature: "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly Cleary These sites are about "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly Cleary. There are lesson plans, activity ideas, teacher guides, a webquest, and online quizzes specifically for the book "The Mouse and the Motorcycle." There are links to eThemes Resources on author Beverly Cleary, "Ralph S. Mouse," and mice. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000968.shtml>

Maps: Latitude and Longitude These sites focus on latitude and longitude. Other topics include time zones, the prime meridian, and the equator. Many sites are interactive. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000486.shtml>

Matter: Properties Find out how properties of matter describe its various states. Discover the states of matter that exist on our planet and in the universe. Includes experiments with different states of matter and observing the changes as well as animated movies, lesson plans, worksheets, and online quizzes. Several sites have lesson plans for teachers. There are links to eThemes Resources on gases, liquids, and solids, and mass and weight. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001504.shtml>

Missouri: Government These sites are about Missouri's state government and include specific information about Missouri's elected officials such as the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, and more. Listen to live audio of the Senate and House of Representatives when they are in session or take a virtual tour of the governor's mansion. Watch a short Missouri Heritage video about the state's first capital and governor. There are links to eThemes Resources related to U.S. government and constitutions. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000066.shtml>

Reading Skills: Inference for Elementary School Students These websites can help elementary students learn how to infer while reading. There are activities, graphic organizers, and short lessons on inference. Includes a link on inference for middle school students. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001680.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Guided Reading These sites offer information about guided reading for primary and upper elementary grade levels. Read a case study, plus see how teaching strategies and tips have been implemented in different classrooms. Topics include the Four Blocks teaching method with emphasis on the guided reading and self-selected reading blocks. Also learn how to assign levels to books. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000600.shtml>

U.S. Government: Judicial Branch These sites explain the role of the Supreme Court and the judicial branch of government. Includes information on the justices, explanations of court proceedings, summaries of landmark cases, video clips, and a Webquest. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Executive Branch and Juridical Branch. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000492.shtml>